

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claim 8.

Amend Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9-16 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A disk drive, comprising:
a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;
a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium;
a latching mechanism having a first end for securely holding the moving member in place, and a second end having a pair of arms and a groove formed between the pair of arms; and
a switching mechanism for switching the latching mechanism between an operative state and an inoperative state, the switching mechanism having a flat projection that locates in the groove to engage and retain the latching mechanism in the inoperative state.
2. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the moving member is supported for turning on a pivot, and has one end part supporting a head slider holding the read/write head, and another end part for being latched by first end of the latching mechanism.
3. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the latching mechanism is an inertial latching mechanism that operates in response to an external shock, and wherein the switching mechanism comprises a support member attached to a base, a shaft axially slidable relative to the support member, a stopper member attached to the shaft adjacent the moving member, a biasing member on the shaft between the support member and the stopper member.
4. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the switching mechanism sets the latching mechanism in the operative state when the read/write head is at the home position, and sets the latching mechanism in the inoperative state when the read/write head is at the read/write position, and wherein an iron element is secured to the switching mechanism adjacent

the flat projection, the iron element being magnetically attracted to the moving member for moving the switching mechanism.

5. (original) The disk drive of claim 1, wherein the latching mechanism has a latching member that moves in response to an external shock; and

the switching mechanism has a stopper member interlocked with the moving member so as to be engaged with or disengaged from the latching member according to the movement of the moving member.

6. (currently amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;

a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the read/write head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium;

a latching mechanism for securely holding the moving member in place; and

a latch locking mechanism for locking the latching mechanism when the read/write head is at the read/write position, the latch locking mechanism having an iron element secured thereto for magnetically attracting and moving the latch locking mechanism toward a magnet on the moving member.

7. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 6, wherein the latching mechanism has a latching member that moves in response to an external shock, and a pair of arms and a groove formed between the pair of arms; and

the latch locking mechanism has a stopper member that restrains the latching member from movement, the stopper member comprising a flat projection that locates in the groove to engage and retain the latching mechanism in an inoperative state.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 8, further comprising a biasing member for biasing the stopper member so as to obstruct the operation of the latching mechanism, the biasing member comprising a support member attached to a base, a shaft axially slidable relative to the support member, a stopper member attached to the shaft adjacent the moving member, a biasing member on the shaft between the support member and the stopper member.

10. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim [[8]] 9, wherein the obstruction of operation of the latching mechanism is removed when the moving member pushes the stopper biasing member.

11. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim [[8]] 7, further comprising a biasing member for biasing the stopper member to advance the stopper member into a moving range for the latching mechanism, and wherein the latching mechanism has an axial post for engagement by the latch locking mechanism for retaining the latching mechanism in an inoperative state.

12. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim [[8]] 7, wherein the stopper member is pushed by the moving member so as to move out of a moving range for the latching mechanism.

13. (currently amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a disk-shaped storage medium supported for rotation;

a moving member supporting a read/write head for reading recorded data from the disk-shaped storage medium and writing data to the disk-shaped storage medium, and for moving the read/write head between a read/write position where the read/write head is able to read data from and write data to the disk-shaped storage medium and a home position where the read/write head is separated from the disk-shaped storage medium; and

a latching mechanism for securely holding the moving member in place when the read/write head is at the home position and of remaining separate from the moving member when the read/write head is at the read/write position; and wherein

the latching mechanism includes a latching member for latching the moving member when the read/write head is at the home position, and a stopper member for restraining the latching member from movement when the read/write head is at the read/write position, the

stopper member comprising a support member attached to a base, a shaft axially slidable relative to the support member, a stopper attached to the shaft adjacent the moving member, and a biasing member on the shaft between the support member and the stopper for biasing the stopper toward the moving member.

14. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 13, wherein the stopper member is interlocked with the moving member, releases the latching member when the read/write head is at the home position, and restrains the latching member when the read/write head is at the read/write position, and the stopper member has an iron element secured thereto for magnetically attracting and moving the stopper toward a magnet on the moving member.

15. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 13, wherein the stopper member has a first contact part for being engaged with and disengaged from the moving member, a second contact part for being engaged with and disengaged from the latching member, and a support part movably supporting the first and the second contact part, the second contact part comprising a flat projection that locates in a groove in the latching member to engage and retain the latching mechanism in an inoperative state.

16. (currently amended) The disk drive of claim 15, wherein the stopper member separates from the latching member when pushed by the moving member, and the stopper member remains in contact with the latching member when not pushed by the moving member, and wherein the latching mechanism has an axial post for engagement by the stopper member for retaining the latching mechanism in an inoperative state.